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Sen. Mike Nofs Makes Connection To Keep Premium Programs at Jackson County Fair

AT&T Donation Will Keep Youth Programs Open in the Future

JACKSON, Mich. – Dec.4, 2009 – State Senator Mike Nofs, along with members of the Jackson area 4-H and Future Farmers of America, joined AT&T today to announce the premium programs at the Jackson County Fair would remain open.

AT&T committed \$40,000 over the next two years to help keep the premium programs at the 156-year old county fair open, including supporting awards for exhibits displayed by 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) youth as well as open exhibits and livestock exhibits. The premium programs had been supported by state funding in previous years, but that funding has recently been cut.

Nofs was joined by a number of 4H and FFA members, as well as local officials, community leaders and AT&T Michigan President James A. Murray for the announcement at the Jackson County Fair offices today.

“Sen. Nofs fostered the connection with the fairgrounds and AT&T in order to support our young exhibitors and our youth, and we cannot thank him enough for supporting our fair,” said Denise Owens, Jackson County Fair operations manager. “We not only provide top notch entertainment, but also educational opportunities that have been part of local families’ activities for the past 156 years.”



"Events like these are vital to the fabric of our communities and our way of life, and we need to do whatever we can - especially in a hard time like this when people need community more than ever - to keep them going," Nofs said. "I am just pleased to work with the Jackson County fair and our business community to keep the fair going for our kids and their families."

The Jackson County Fair, established in 1853, is one of the largest in Michigan, drawing nearly 300,000 visitors per year. Recently, the fair has experienced financial difficulties due to the struggling local economy and reductions in state funding.

"Senator Nofs deserves to be applauded for his commitment to community and events like this which keep communities together," said AT&T Michigan President James A. Murray. "With employees and retirees living in nearly every county in the state, we know how vital community events are to making Michigan such a great place to live. We are proud to work with Senator Nofs and the County Fair to ensure these programs stay in place in the coming years."

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About Philanthropy at AT&T

For 25 years, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation have been committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its philanthropic initiatives and partnerships, AT&T supports projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; and address community needs. As the AT&T Foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009, more than \$160 million was contributed through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs in 2008 alone.

About AT&T

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) is a premier communications holding company. Its subsidiaries and affiliates – AT&T operating companies – are the providers of AT&T services in the United States and around the world. With a powerful array of network resources that includes the nation's fastest 3G network, AT&T is a leading provider of wireless, Wi-Fi, high speed Internet and voice services. AT&T offers the best wireless coverage worldwide, offering the most wireless phones that work in the most countries. It also offers advanced TV services under the AT&T U-verseSM and AT&T | DIRECTVSM brands. The company's suite of IP-based business communications services is one of the most advanced in the world. In domestic markets, AT&T's Yellow Pages and YELLOWPAGES.COM organizations are known for their leadership in directory publishing and advertising sales. In 2009, AT&T again ranked No. 1 in the telecommunications industry on FORTUNE® magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.

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